Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: PLOVDIV FAIR 1975 - AMERICAN VIP

- 1. WHEN I CALLED ON THE MAYOR OF PLOVDIV FEB 17 ON ANOTHER MATTER, HE SPOKE WITH SPECIAL WARMTH OF REPRESENTATIVE ERLENBORN WHO HAD OFFICIATED AS VIP AT THE AMERICAN PAVILION OF THE PLOVDIV FAIR IN 1973, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EITHER HE OR ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN OR SENATOR WOULD PLAY SIMILARLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THIS YEAR'S PAVILION.
- 2. MAYOR PARIKIAN IS A SOPHISTICATED MAYOR, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS REMARK WAS MADE ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN NOTED IN THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT THAT OUR VIP IN 1974 BROKE THE TRADITION OF HAVING A PROMINENT LEGISLATOR REPRESENT THE US. FACT THAT OUR 1974 VIP SHORTLY AFTER VISITING HERE LEFT THE US GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO FEELING THAT LAST YEAR WE DOWNGRADED OUR REPRESENTATIONAL PARTICIPATION.
- 3. REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE BULGARIANS MAY THINK (OR MAY WANT US TO THINK), IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO TAKE EARLY ACTION IN LINING UP AN APPROPRIATE MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO COME HERE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR AMERICA DAY AT THE PLOVDIV FAIR. A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHO HAS CONTINUING INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE WOULD BE IDEAL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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